

MONTEREY NEWS

MARCH 1988



TOWN NEWS

Town Leases Grange Hall for Temporary Offices

Monterey Selectmen and members of the Monterey Grange signed a lease February 12 which will enable the Town to rent the Grange Hall on Main Road through June 30 of this year. Town office equipment and files were moved in soon after, and regular Selectmen's meetings were scheduled to be held there beginning Tuesday, February 16. The lease agreement specifies \$200 a month rent plus normal upkeep such as plowing and mowing. The Town agreed to take care of any further maintenance on the premises up to \$75 a project. The Grange reserves the right to use the building for its regular meetings twice a month and will give the Town 24 hours' notice of any special events planned for the hall.

The temporary arrangement with the Grange came about after that organization offered to give the building to the Town, subject to certain conditions such as the privileges accompanying the lease. Monterey Selectmen have expressed enthusiasm for the idea of another much-needed municipal building. For a Town to accept such a gift, a Town vote is required. This vote will be requested at Monterey's regular town meeting in May.

An engineering evaluation of the Grange building revealed the structure to be in good shape. It was recommended that several extra supports be added underneath the main floor so that no limit would have to be put on the number of people permitted to occupy that floor at one time.

Meanwhile, the Selectmen wrote a letter to the Town Hall Committee enjoining them to continue to consider sites for a Town Hall. The possibilities listed were: the ten acres owned by the Town behind the new firehouse, the present ball park, the Grange Hall, and any other existing Town structures.

At the Special Town Meeting March 12 an article on the warrant will ask for money to fund a site evaluation on the ten-acre parcel, especially in terms of septic possibilities. Repairs necessary on the school house/Town offices building recently vacated by Town officials are still being assessed by Hill Engineering.

First Meeting of Selectmen and Part Timers Held

The first meeting between Monterey Selectmen and part-time residents of the town, initiated to encourage communication between these two entities, was held February 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Monterey Grange Hall. According to Selectman Matt Williams, the meeting was low in attendance but productive. Two main concerns expressed by those who came were the problem of weed control on Lake Garfield and a perception

of the Town as "hassling" residents who intend to do alterations to their properties. The "hassling" incident which inspired the complaint involved a man who wanted to make an addition on his house and was required to get several permits in order to be able to do it. The Selectmen assured the group that the sequence of permits was standard procedure in town and was by no means personally vindictive or excessive. As for weed control, the general conclusion was that members of the Lake Garfield Association, having a vested interest in a weed-free lake, must organize in a manner similar to the Lake Buel Association as regards ideas, work and fund raising.

The second meeting of this kind will be held on March 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Grange Hall.

Special Town Meeting, March 12

A Special Town Meeting is scheduled to follow the Part Timers Meeting on March 12 and will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the Grange Hall. There are a couple of unpaid bills which came in late and which require voter authorization to be paid. Other articles on the warrant will include a request by the Selectmen to authorize the Salary Committee to make recommendations for implementation of personnel practices for Town workers, a change in the by-law on junk cars, and a request for money to do a septic feasibility study on the Town-owned ten acres behind the new firehouse.

Roads Report

The Walthers snowplow broke down at the beginning of February and will not be in operation until early March. Apologies from the Highway Department if snow removal was not as smooth as usual during the February snows.

— Ellen K. Pearson





JUDITH KALES

Catherine Mielke with the plaque honoring her long service to the Town, presented on her retirement from the Conservation Commission on January 11.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

There were no public hearings at the February meeting. On March 5 several members of the Monterey Conservation Commission will attend the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions' 1988 Annual Meeting in Worcester. The principal topic for the day will be wildlife habitat protection.

New regulations went into effect in November, 1987, making wildlife habitat one of the wetland values which is protected by law. At the MACC meeting over 600 conservation commissioners from all over Massachusetts will be able to study the new regulations and other aspects of wetlands protection in two series of workshops.

— Bonner J. McAllester

IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE

The Berkshire Chapter of the Izaak Walton League met on Thursday, February 18, at their regular monthly meeting held in the Monterey Firehouse. Election of officers was held, and elected for the coming year were: Arthur Somers, President; Philip Gunzinger, Vice President; and Leroy Thorpe, Secretary/Treasurer. Nominated for the board of directors to be voted on at the next meeting were Gerald Stephens, Linda Thorpe, Betty Gunzinger, Harold Greene, Tim Burke and Debbie Mortz. Harold Greene was presented with the Judge Colby award, presented annually to the year's most valuable member.

The Berkshire Chapter, a member of the National Izaak Walton League, is dedicated to the broad concept of wilderness preservation in its natural state and expresses a direct concern for cleanliness of our rivers, lakes, and streams. The association meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the firehouse. New members are most cordially welcome, the only requirement being a love of the land and the desire to retain it in a pure state.

— Arthur S. Somers

MONTEREY LAND TRUST

The Monterey Land Trust held its monthly board meeting for 2½ hours on Tuesday, February 17. The principal item of discussion was the proposed Land Bank for the Commonwealth.

Two towns on Cape Cod charge a fee on real estate transfers, which creates a fund from which open space is purchased. Although forty other towns have passed similar resolutions, the state has decided that any further authorizations must be uniform statewide. For the last two years the bill has lost a close legislative struggle.

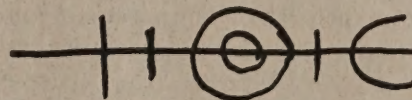
Spurred by concern about overdevelopment, legislators have introduced a new bill. Dick Tryon reported to the Land Trust that legislators to whom he has spoken have requested support for their efforts. He asked for our help.

If such a bill were passed, the Town could, if it chose to, establish a Land Bank Committee which would oversee the expenditure of the fund for open space/recreation and/or affordable housing. Most likely, under this plan a 1-2% fee would be added to real estate transfers over a certain amount (say — \$75,000) and would exempt first-time full-time home buyers and family transfers.

From this fund the Town would have monies to combat overdevelopment of expensive properties, which chews up open space and ignores those people looking for affordable full-time housing.

The Land Trust is planning some public meetings to discuss the issue and learn the Town's recommendations.

— Bob Thieriot



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NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

At this time of the year, people start asking each other about how the sap is running. We should be careful how we ask the question. In an election year, the answer is likely to be something like this: "Well, he came in third in Iowa, but then won in New Hampshire. Now all we can do is sit back and see how he looks after Super Tuesday"

The year of a presidential election is the perfect time, I think, for reading books about politics. (This year, it has the added advantage of keeping our minds off the all-too-long campaign.) I have recently read a very entertaining new library book, Tip O'Neill's *Man of the House*. The former Speaker is a wonderful storyteller, and his knowledge of the business of politics is unsurpassed. You don't have to agree with all of his political opinions and judgments (although they seem very sensible to me, for one) to have a good, enjoyable lesson in practical politics.

If you prefer to read about politics of an earlier time, the library has quite a few good biographies, so you can read about Coolidge or FDR (depending on your taste and your politics), or anything else you fancy. Do not overlook novels, either; *All the King's Men*, for instance, or *The Last Hurrah*.

I mentioned last month that the Monterey Library Trustees are considering sponsoring a book discussion series in the summer. We are going to start planning it soon. It will consist of several sessions, each discussing one of several books on a particular theme. If you would be interested in taking part, or in making any suggestions, please give me a call at 528-4723.

— John Higgins
Chairman, Library Trustees

LIBRARY NEWS

"Monterey: Past, Present, and Future"

My work on the grant to create a local interest section in the library has up to this point consisted of cataloging the existing collection. I have begun looking for other materials which could enhance our collection. Our Town Report collection only goes back to 1890, but fortunately there are reports in Boston that date back to 1863. I am currently working on getting copies of those reports in our collection. When the current collection was bound in the mid-'Sixties, it was thought that there were earlier reports than that. It was the usual procedure to print Town Reports before Monterey was incorporated in 1847. Has anyone come across one? Though it would be nice to have an original, even a copy is worth having. We would be sure to return any materials that are lent for copying purposes. Donations in any form will be accepted. George Wislocki recently donated the Berkshire Natural Resources Council files on the proposed Route 23 bypass, an amazing wealth of material that is now accessible to everyone. This is the perfect example of what the library should have. Look carefully before you clean out your attic. Any old papers, books, even pictures could be invaluable to someone today, and even more so in the years to come.

Any questions? Don't hesitate to contact me at the library, 528-3795, or at home, 528-1382.

— Mark Makuc 3

IN A LATE SNOWSTORM

*I hear a springtime songster
Singing out there in the snow
Where heavily laden branches
Bend down to the ground below.
He's perching near our feeder,
This brave brown bird so dear,
Singing his song of springtime
For all who will, to hear.
Though the snow continues falling
Still his happy clear notes ring.
As if to warm his little heart
He sings his song of spring.*

— Eleanor Kimberley

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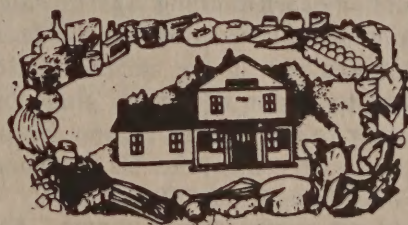
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Early Days at Swann Forest
(from a letter to Tom O'Brien)

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I've been getting the *Monterey News* going on three years now, since my brother Shelton in Phoenix, a subscriber for years, sent me an issue which had our pictures in it as grammar school students under Bea Phillips at Corashire School on the road to Monterey. I read with interest your article in the *News*.

Earle Stafford, father of William, Evalyn, Shelton and me, and our mother Edith, lived on Swann State Forest for many years. Our father was the Supervisor or Superintendent of Swann, a 900-acre private estate given to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1918 by a Mrs. Swann in memory of her husband, Arthur Swann, who, I believe, died in World War I. There is, I'm sure you know, a bronze plaque commemorating the gift on a huge rock across the road from the Lodge, where young people come in summer months to savor some of the same marvels of country living our family enjoyed from 1923 until 1942, when our father retired to California. Our mother died in August, 1939, at the Great Barrington hospital. Our father died at 89 in Santa Barbara, California, August, 1976.

The large two-story Forest Headquarters house, with cellar, was torched in the late '40s or early '50s as the means to quickly raze a wooden building which was no longer needed. The only remaining building of several out-buildings is the old "Cow-barn" across the road from our previously immaculate lawn, shaded by twin maples—one long since down, the other still standing as of three or four years ago. The foundations of a horse barn, shop and shed, sheep barn and piggery—vestiges of the farming done there long ago—can be discovered among the weeds and hay here and there. When our parents took over the new Swann State Forest, there were many open meadows around the house, hayed in early fall. The wooden remains of an ice-house still lie crumbled in the trees behind the cow barn.

When our father retired, his longtime forestry handy-man, Robert Elwood ("Tommy") Thompson, lived there. Tommy was at Swann for years, living in the area nearby and driving up the hill to our home each morning to get his daily planting, pruning, or maintenance instructions for the day. He was a patient, good-natured part of our childhood. He attended Cornell and came to Swann as a newly graduated forestry student, the answer to our father's request for an assistant who could do the heavier work. After his death or departure, Swann State Forest became part of Beartown.

Our father had the original "green thumb." Assigned by people in the State House in Boston to "supervise" the forest (I had to agree with your comment about "supervising a forest"), he indulged a passion for forestry experimentation. He imported, at his own expense, plants and shrubs from all over the country, to study their growing and survival capacities. I remember a Spanish bayonet with its sharp spines just outside our bedroom, an exotic plant from a faraway state—today all around the Arizona home I live in fifty-odd years later.

If you visit the old HQ site, you'll note nearby the ordered row upon row of pine and spruce plantations which, to the unobservant eye, appear to be random forests. Behind the filled-in cellar-hole atop the slope where the house stood, there is a towering stand of fir trees (blue spruce?) planted when we were kids.

A planting philosophy he developed, "Skeleton Planting,"

was based on his observation that overplanting of trees led to the expected "survival of the fittest" in nature, with the weakest dying off. Hence, plant a skeleton plantation of well-spaced trees so all will survive as healthy specimens. (His article on this in *Scientific American* went into the "Time Capsule" at the New York World's Fair in 1938.)

As far as Benedict Pond is concerned, on a couple of occasions I spent the day collecting money there for the use of picnic tables and camp-sites at the behest of my father (50 cents per family, I believe) when he was acting Beartown State Forest administrator on behalf of a vacationing Beartown Supervisor.

Two Supervisors of Beartown who preceded you were Jack Lambert, a very pleasant gentleman who occupied the house at Beartown Road and Brett Road, not far from the highway... and the fine Harold Greene, who, I believe, was Jack's assistant for a while, until Lambert moved on. The same house was used by each in turn; perhaps it's your home now. Shelton, Marjorie Brett and I used to pass that corner en route to and from Corashire School. There is (or was) a shield-shaped sign on the barn across from that house. That sign used to hang on a post at the side of the road perhaps fifty feet down the hill from our old lawn.

Brett Road, which leads to the old Swann HQ, past the Lodge (the route taken by that stretch of the Appalachian Trail—there is a flat stone by the road in front of the Lodge which, I understand, was a stepping-stone for the stage which stopped there long ago) and on east to upper Monterey, is named for George and Frances Brett, our nearest neighbors for years, the best one could ever have. George was a Monterey Selectman for many years; Frances, an exceptional woman, was a teacher and involved in school matters after that. Their dairy farm on Brett Road was our second home as kids. Frances still summers, as I'm sure you know, in their sheltered home on Brett Road beyond the Beartown HQ....

Good luck in your duties.

Sincerely,

Gordon Stafford

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BEARTOWN FOREST

Monterey's Swann Forest II

In an earlier article on Swann Forest I mentioned that 47 different species of trees were planted in experimental plots by supervisor Earle Stafford during his residency from 1923-1942. If you turn east on Brett Road where it intersects Blue Hill Road and go about two miles you come to an old red barn on the right and, just beyond it, a forest road going due south through dense young forest. On your right as you leave Brett Road (also known as Lodge Road, since it goes to Swann Ridge), you will be passing what was once Gorge Field, Long Meadow, and Dick's Meadow. On your left, opposite the above, were Narrow Meadow, then Side Meadow. These fields were laid out in plots numbered from 27 to 39, averaging about 90 feet in road frontage, and here the young trees were set out 12 feet apart according to maps still on record at the Beartown Forest office. In some cases the species were mixed to see how they would prosper together. Other plots are grouped species by species: Side Meadow, for example, is planted to 52 Douglas fir, all together, then 42 Colorado blue spruce, then 35 red spruce.

Of the 47 species on which there are still records, the great majority were fir (13 kinds), pine (13), and spruce (8). To list the kinds is to realize that many of the tree races from temperate regions all over the world are 50-year residents of Monterey. The firs are: balsam, Grecian, white, southern, Himalayan, Nikko (Japan), Alpine, Caucasian, silver, Sitka, Siberian, Veitch and Douglas. Other international residents in Swann Forest are European larch, Norway spruce, Oriental spruce, Chinese and Japanese chestnut, and five species of pine: Austrian, Scotch, and Japanese red, black and white.

A beginning was made here, as in many other experimental forests, to find a replacement for the American chestnuts that were exterminated with such tragic speed and thoroughness from one end of the country to the other in the first two decades of this century. Oriental chestnuts are not susceptible to this blight, which was introduced from Europe, but they are low growing trees not usable for timber, while the American tree was a straight-grained forest giant, remarkably resistant to decay. It looks as though one of the experiments may have been to see if Oriental and American chestnuts could be cross-bred to combine the best features of both.

A notation on the map records that "all plantations were ceased 1942, H. Greene & R. E. Thompson." From the look of the plantations today, this must have been the last care they received. "Releasing" means going through a plantation cutting out young trees that have grown up naturally and are competing with the desired species. Today tall white ash and maples tower among the Japanese red pines and the Englemann spruces. Another experiment is underway: how well can these exotic visitors hold up against the exuberance of our hardy native trees?

— David P. McAllester

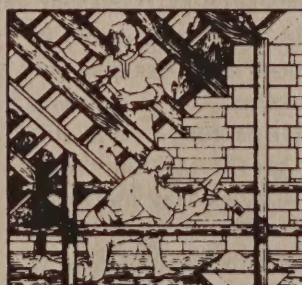


QUESTION

*The moon is frozen fire, and high,
Earth's vested still in mail;
Sullen winds rise and cry —
Can spring prevail?*

— Dorothy E. Law

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MONTEREY WASTELINES

The State-of-the-Waste-Area Report

I checked on the newspaper collection shed on Sunday and discovered that we already have two-and-one-half tons of newspapers saved for recycling. Friends and neighbors, we're now really doing it—we are saving resources and saving money as well as supporting the Boy Scout Organization! Let's look at the actual accounting: 2.5 tons of solid waste saved at the current price of \$69.50 equals \$175. The scouts will get over \$100 for their share in selling the two-and-a-half tons of paper. We can repeat this at least four times per year, for a total money saving of more than \$1,000 per year.

The Selectmen and the Finance Committee have sent out requests for 1989 budget suggestions to all of the Town committees. Our Solid Waste Committee met and went over the results for the seven months of the current (1988) fiscal year. The story is not so dreary as we might have feared earlier in the year. We estimate that we will spend a bit less than the \$75,000.00 which the Town has budgeted for solid waste expenditures. Of course, the current \$70 per ton fee could still go up before July, and we still have to get through the invigorating springtime, the days when everyone cleans up and tends to throw more things into the waste bin. But so far, we have sent five green compactor loads each month, to be dumped at Granby or Chicopee for a cost of \$700 each. That makes \$3,500 per month, besides the contract fee for hauling and operating the waste area (\$2,200 per month).

One last bit of data for the numbers game—the user fee (sticker) program has yielded slightly more than the original plan, for an estimated total of \$23,000.

I'm not reciting these numbers to spice up my column (it's as much fun as writing a telephone book!), but the Annual Town Meeting is coming up, and I figured that all of you intrepid Town citizens would want to start getting into a governing mode.

Actually, to cast in a little aside here, this New England Town committee-budgeting-Town meeting process gains more appeal for me as I learn more about it. I know that the Finance committee members pull their hair out waiting for word from committees. I realize that it's a very dispersed process and we sometimes don't know who is really responsible for certain decisions along the way. But it's so wonderfully democratic, and so many people can participate. I think we really have managed to do it quite well, recently, in Monterey. A lot of the credit goes to the Selectmen for their sensitive

handling of this far-flung system of governance.

Several other items: our Solid Waste Committee will be proposing an article for the Annual Town Meeting warrant on mandatory recycling of newspapers, now that we have a system that works and that everyone can use. We would encourage discussion about this any time and especially at meeting time.

We will also be encouraging the beginning (this summer or autumn) of glass, tin and aluminum recycling to coincide with the planned opening of a state-run facility in Springfield. This plant would sort materials which we would pitch into only one container at the transfer station and haul to Springfield every month or so. They would pay various amounts for the materials, at least enough to pay for the hauling, I think, and we would still save the disposal fees of normal garbage.

— Wayne Burkhart





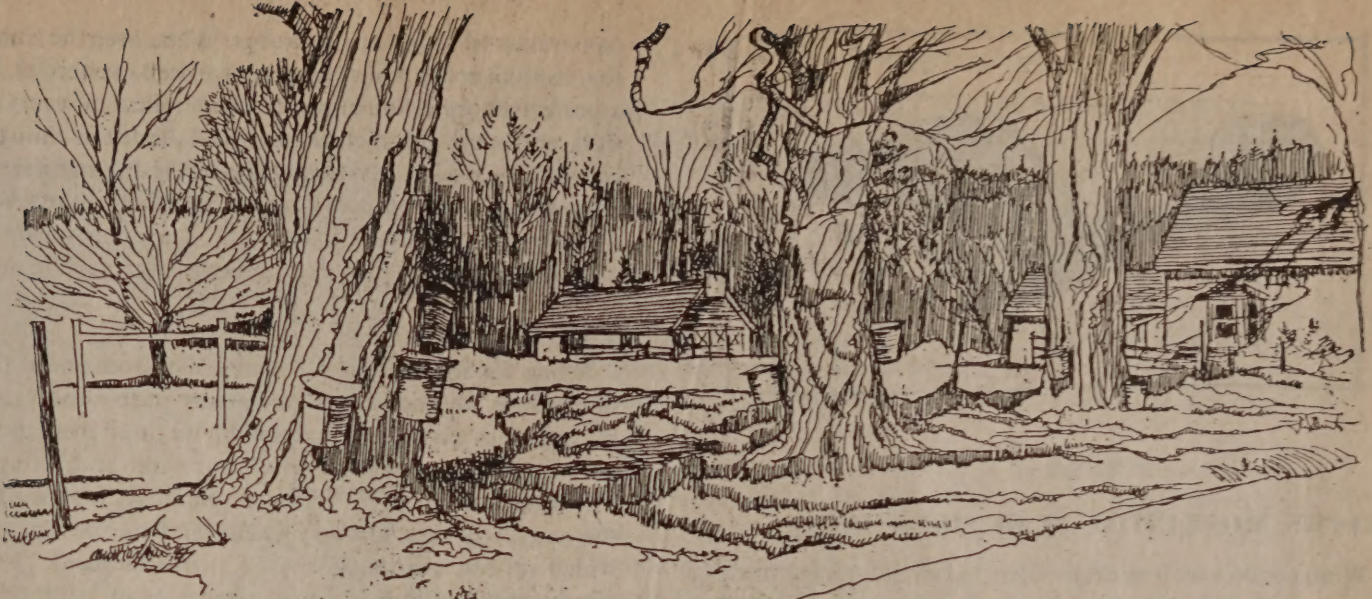
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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange No. 291 met at Lecturer Mary Wallace's home January 21 for a regular meeting; many subjects were discussed. Mary Wallace was appointed to attend the Regional Meeting at Cummington on January 23.

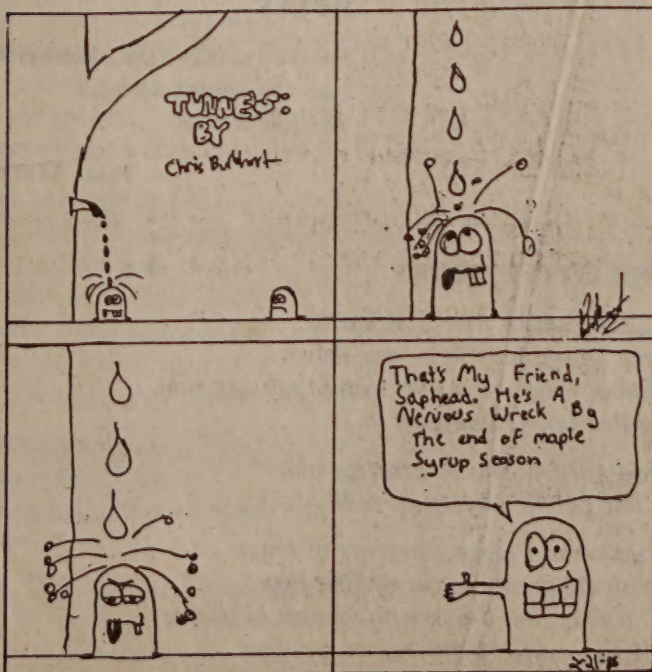
The meeting on February 18 was jointly with Great Barrington Grange No. 265. The Grange has been invited to Umpachene Grange No. 269 for a Women's Program on March 8. The next meeting will be March 2; members are urged to attend to vote on the hall situation.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

COMMUNITY DINNER

It was decided in December not to have a dinner for January and February unless someone was inspired. Since that didn't happen, spring is on the way and we're ready to roll again. On March 30 we are going to have Susan Bynack telling us about her trip to India and Nepal. She was particularly interested in the Royal Bengal tigers and their struggle for survival. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and we'll enjoy the food, the program and each other's company — at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Room of the church.

— Milly Walsh



The MONTEREY ARTS COUNCIL IS LOOKING LOOKING LOOKING FOR: APPLICANTS

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TRACKS: MOST INTIMATE OF SIGNATURES

Winter comes with its bright light and terrible temperatures, shutting us up indoors, causing us to bundle ourselves in bulky clothes and heavy footgear. It is somewhat isolating, alienating to change habits and appearance in the name of survival, but we do it as a matter of course, like the snails on rocky shores at low tide, when the tempering water is down, exposing them to great drying and freezing. They hunker hard against the rock, pulling in their soft, expressive appendages to protect them from harsh elements. So do we, in winter, haul in our delicate extremities, saving them for the easy, open time of summer.

At the same time that winter discourages personal access to and for the warm-blooded, it also, paradoxically, provides us with a medium by which we may snoop thoroughly into each others' lives. Snow comes, an exquisite and sometimes cruel element: we cannot breathe it nor drink it nor even sit down in it for very long. But in it we can read all the comings and goings of the ambulatory creatures around us, and while we may feel in-drawn and muffled up ourselves, we at the same time are keeping our eyes peeled for evidence, reading the signs which are laid out most clearly for us at this time of year.

I had the pleasure of going on a field-trip to the woods with 18 second-graders not long ago, and as we drove along Route 23 they kept singing out about track sightings along the highway.

Once we got out in the woods their sharp eyes found places where squirrels had dug down for acorns, and they spotted tunnels just breaking the surface where short-tailed shrews had trundled along. Most people have never seen a shrew about its business since it moves fast, usually by night, and usually under cover of some kind. Even so, by scrutinizing these trails, which looked like long lines where someone had dragged a stick along, the children quickly realized that shrews and mice have very different methods of getting around. The mice hop, making distinct impressions and dragging a delicate tail. The shrews just charge forward making a "full-body furrow" and their short tails show no drag in the snow.

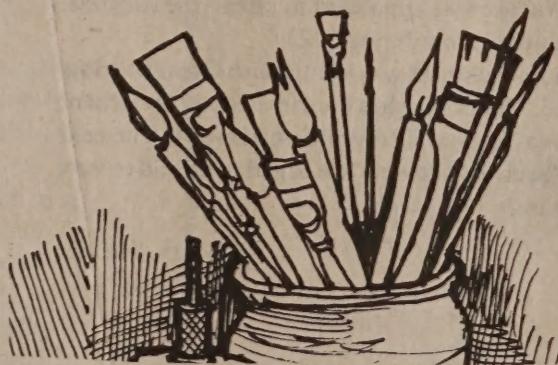
For me the snow represents a kind of great literary equalizer. We all leave our journal entries there, for anyone to read, whether we want to or not. Furthermore, these entries are absolutely candid—our tracks tell no lies, put on no airs, paint no inaccuracies about our daily lives, our personal histories. Also, our tracks are the most individual, personalized mark we can make. They constitute a handwriting which not only tells our story but which is also, itself, entirely our own body's writing which has not been shaped or influenced by penmanship class; the story is told with none of the cultural

constraints of organized language. When I see the tracks of a fox, trotting up the white highway of an iced-over brook, leaving a perfect staccato line of prints which reflect his every hesitation, curiosity, and inclination, I feel almost as though I see him there in person. His body is the stylus, his lovely small feet in long black velvet gloves have touched these places. Without actually seeing him trot up the brook, I have an intimate experience of the shy, nocturnal autobiographer writing in snow.

• • •

When we adopted our daughter Sudi from India, the first impression we had of her was a tiny purple footprint. The photographs came later, and though we loved them they never gave us the same heartthrob we got from Sudi's tiny track. The track said, clearly, "This is me, Sudi. My foot touched this paper exactly here, in a way which can never be repeated and which reflects absolutely myself at this moment." Now our family photo album is full of likenesses of her face, glossy moments in time reflected with the help of optic lenses, mirrors, chemical baths and technicians. But it is the little footprint we can never forget because she made it herself, and it is a track which we feel so clearly it seems she put it directly on our hearts.

— Bonner J. McAllester



HOUSE

*Smoke curls off the chimney's lip
Into the winter without
The fire within.*

— Peter Murkett

THE LITTLE HOUSE

*Today I saw a wee drab house
Like an old lady in a grey shawl,
I think when I am old I shall look like that,
Smiled upon, and lived in.*

*I do not fear much, growing old,
Some people seem to love it.*

*And when I reach the years of magic
With children's voices singing near,
You may find a tree with whitest blossoms
Waving sturdy arms before my door.*

— Sue Moody

"I've always been an artist," says Frank D'Amato. "At least, ever since my first grade teacher found I was putting perspective in my drawings." After an interruption for military service he entered the Massachusetts College of Art in 1948 on the G. I. Bill. He worked as a technical illustrator for General Electric in Lynn, where he had been born, for six or seven years but thought he'd rather teach. In 1962 he took a degree in the teaching of art at Teachers College, Columbia University. During twenty-one years of teaching at the Concord (Massachusetts) Carlisle Regional High School he taught drawing, painting, and the history of art.

Tyringham was his introduction to the Berkshires. For three summers he was associated with the Tyringham Galleries. One day he brought his sketching class over Smith Hill to Monterey and saw two barns looking south with a view of the dam and west end of Lake Garfield. He took early retirement from his teaching job, bought one of the barns, and moved in. That was in 1983. The barn is becoming a house, mostly through Frank's own plans and labor, with great windows overlooking the view and with a spacious studio, north lighted, upstairs. Work on the house competes with painting for D'Amato's time. He has bought the second barn, too, and taken it down.

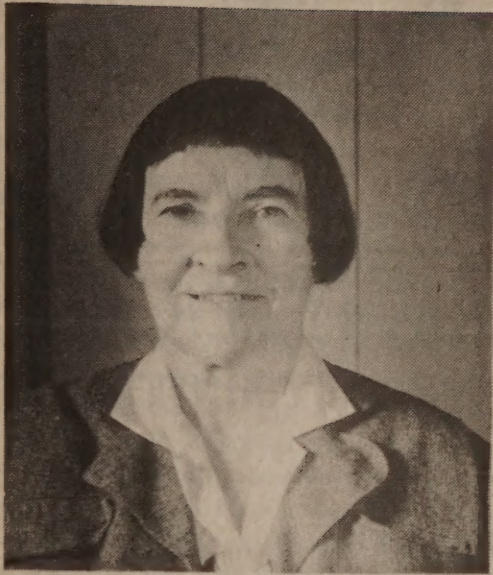
"When you teach art you have to teach all styles," he says. "Now I'm trying to dig out my own style from underneath all that." Representational stuff sells, he says, and he does some commissioned work of that sort for hotels around Boston. But he works toward "stylized representationalism," which keeps the painting interesting for him as well as appealing for the customers.

D'Amato is one of the original group of artists who formed the Monterey Arts Council and one of its most active members, as well as a steady contributor to the *Monterey News*. "Those Arts Council summer shows have been good to me," he says. "I always sell at them." He showed me an unfinished watercolor of the view, and it shimmered with something that the artist had added to the reality.

— Susan McAllester



Frank D'Amato



MARGERY MANSFIELD

Margery Mansfield (1895-1984). Poet, editor of *Poetry* magazine, resident of Monterey.

EVERYWOMAN

years have walked through quiet ways
it have not bruised my feet too much;
and I have never watched my joys
in black beneath my touch,
tasted wild, sweet willful love
and all its discontent;
and yet most strangely on a road
I walk not, I am spent
joys and agonies of which my years are innocent.

golden hills the mad red grapes
as Bacchus' purple kisses on my mouth;
druid forests start with shapes
that I have knelt to, and the south
as at my heart when migrant birds are fleet:
young children clasp my thighs; and all about,
dust of Calvary lies hot against my feet.

Sometimes think that I am all
the women ever were; that I
hundred times have climbed bleak hills
to watch my lover die.

— Margery Mansfield
Reprinted from *Workers in Fire*
by Margery Mansfield, 1937. Originally
published in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

PERSONAL NOTES

Welcome back to the **Clawson** girls! **Eileen, Morgan,** and **Maggie** enjoyed a week in Florida visiting Eileen's parents and seeing the sights. Seems they came back with such positive reports that they've half-convinced Don to take a little break next year. Go for it, Don—you deserve it!

Brothers **Roger** and **Delmar Tryon** loved their ski vacation at Lake Tahoe. They had the luxury of being only one mile from Heavenly Valley, and, with a couple of 6" storms to boot, the powder skiing was just terrific.

Vincent and **Leslie Scutellaro** had a perfectly wonderful time in the Virgin Islands being mellow and enjoying gorgeous weather. Those tans! Children **Benjamin** and **Dinah** also had a nice vacation with their grandparents in New York State. Welcome back, all of you!

Nancy Kalodner attended the National Association of Realtors mid-winter conference in San Antonio, Texas, the first week of February. Although the weather was very "February-Berkshires"—30s and *sleet* no less, Nancy reports that the seminars were very educational.

David and Susan McAllester joined the winter-break crowd, making theirs a trip to the Everglades. They drove down, visiting friends on the way, and then had a most educational time learning about the vast "river of grass" with its abundant wild-life of pelicans, ibises, egrets, cormorants, anhingas and alligators, to name a few.

Welles and **Kay Sellew** are still recovering from a wonderful visit from dear friends **Herb** and **Marion Wheeler**, from Long Island, and **Arnold** and "Whitey" **Whitehouse**, from Maine. It seems they laughed so much their sides hurt! Sounds great!

Dave Whitten, new assistant manager at Gould Farm, and **Wayne Burkhardt**, also of Gould Farm and our "Monterey Wastelines" contributor, participated with the Berkshire Concert Choir at their mid-winter fundraiser, "An Evening of American Songs," at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield. Such talent in our midst!

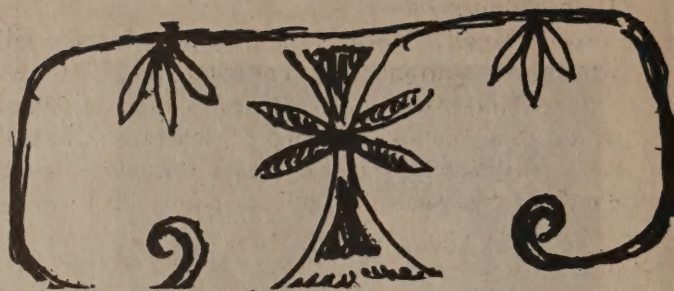
Hearty congratulations to **John Blanchard** who captured the individual championship at the Western Mass. Division 2 high school wrestling championships held at Monument Mountain on February 20. Having claimed the 160-lb. title, John earns a berth at the State Division 2 tournament in Wayland, the end of February. Good job, John, and best of luck! A senior at Mt. Everett, John is the son of **Don Blanchard** of Beartown Road.

Congratulations also to skier **Natasha Grotz**, who has been selected to participate in the 1988 Junior Olympics to be held at the U. S. Olympic Training Center, Lake Placid, New York from March 14 to 20. Tasha earned her selection at the Tristate Championships held on February 6 and 7, where she captured two first-place finishes and one second, as well as the overall giant slalom title and best single race point result. We're excited!

Tasha thanks all her congratulatory well-wishers. What a special community Monterey is to grow up in!

Happy Birthday Wishes to **Lanny Lanoue** on February 14, to **David Gauthier** on February 15, to **Maryellen Brown** on February 16, to **Emily Carlisle** on February 23, and to Monterey's Leap Year Kid, **Shaen O'Connor** on February 29!

— Stephanie Grotz



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, there will be an article on the warrant concerning "Star Wars," or the Strategic Defense Initiative, President Reagan's disastrous plan for the militarization of space at unprecedented cost to taxpayers and to world safety. The article on the warrant is a "non-binding public advisory question." It is an opportunity for us as voters to give our opinion on a matter which at times seems to be out of our control and which affects us all directly.

This year many other towns in Massachusetts are putting the Star Wars question on their warrants or ballots. Across the state voters are discussing and thinking over the consequences of a computer-controlled arsenal in space which may cost one trillion dollars but which even its project director has said is "not a realistic thing." It will stimulate countermeasures in the U. S. S. R. which are not technologically difficult nor expensive but which constitute nuclear weapons escalation and which can easily evade the S. D. I.

Star Wars threatens us all and is a deadly boondoggle being put over on us by the Reagan administration. We need to make our opinion known.

Yours truly,

Bonner J. McAllester

To the Editor:

For the last few years, I have been reading of Glenn Heller, "Town Watchdog." I had wondered at this designation. When I came to New England, I learned of Town meetings, selectmen, tree wardens and other positions unique to Town government. But then I began hearing of this Watchdog position, and I wanted more details.

So I went to the *Town Report* and looked under "Town Offices and Officials." But I was surprised to find no "Watchdog." So I stopped one of the Selectmen at Roadside and asked if the board had created this position, but he wanted no part of this responsibility. So I wondered where this position came from. But then I learned that Watchdog was a self-appointed position. How wonderful that Mr. Heller took the pressure off the Town by volunteering to appoint the Watchdog—but I would suggest that the Republicans and Democrats nominate candidates for this position at their caucuses, so that we can decide on this position at our Town meeting. I appreciate Mr. Heller's creation of this position. I am sure he would welcome a bit of competition to see which dog in town can bite the hardest.

— Bob Thieriot

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To: The Board of Selectmen (copy to *Monterey News*)

Dear Friends,

We are presently in California, and your notice to abutters on Mount Hunger Road, in re. the erection of poles and wires on Mt. Hunger Road, has just arrived at our temporary address. May we react, if belatedly.

On the assumption that it is to the advantage of *all* residents of Monterey to consider what happens to our only mountain in the village, may we suggest that the Mass. Electric Co. and N. E. T. Co. be asked to bring their poles and wiring *NOT* from the Tyringham side of Mt. Hunger Road, *BUT* from the Route 23 side—to the top of the mountain, where new building is contemplated. Poles for electricity and telephone already exist a great distance up the mountain road, from Route 23 *almost* to the new construction sites. It is only a comparatively short distance from the last house on the road which does have poles and wiring to the properties now owned by Ms. McLendon, Mr. Lipsky, and Ms. Kalodner at the top of Mt. Hunger Road where, we assume, construction is contemplated. It would be cheaper for the companies concerned, more convenient, and, very much more importantly, more environmentally feasible.

Communities these days are often too late in recognizing the environmental gems they have. Once imposed on, or greatly changed, they become irretrievable. Mt. Hunger is the village's gem. The road from Tyringham Road is an entry to a path for hikers, camp children, residents—a small mountain forest on either side of what was a narrow mountain road. Numerous animals and birds live there. Small ponds on its sides are frog breeding grounds. An invasion of poles and wires along that road from the Tyringham Road side, especially since they will crisscross the road, will add unsightliness to much that IS STILL, VERY MUCH, A NATURAL PRESERVE. It's bad enough that the widening of the mountain road, from the Tyringham Road side last year, created a route for too many cars and trucks that found a new, quick way from Route 23 (Otis) to Lake Garfield and then to the village center. (Hupi Road is much narrower and twisty; the mountain road is, for the most part, wider and more convenient, now.)

Whatever can be done to preserve what we have and cannot replace (Mt. Hunger Road is part of our colonial and Revolutionary history; the house built at the entry part to the mountain road, on Mt. Hunger Road, was built in 1741) should be done, if at all possible. We owe at least that to those who come after us. Our Village officials might well consider what may become an irreversible effect on that mountain as the road up from Tyringham Road becomes widely used by cars and trucks, and as telephone and electric poles and wires are installed on its sides. Or is our mountain to become a developers' dream?

Would opting for such poles—from Route 23—where many already exist—to the newly planned building sites—not serve the village better?

Thanks for letting us have our say.

Sincerely,

Arthur and Elsa Bronstein



The Otis Grange float in a parade in 1960, showing tapped maple trees and gathering the sap with a shoulder yoke.

Early Ways of Gathering and Boiling Sap

Photos by Eleanor Kimberley



Sap boiling in a wood-fired sap house



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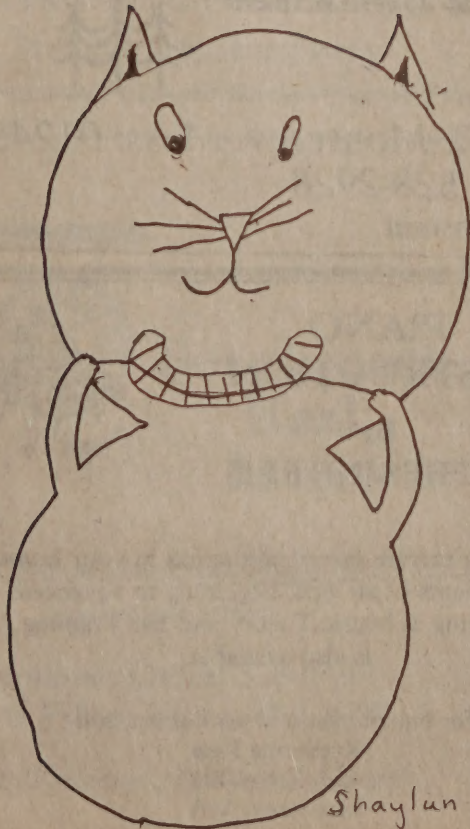
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THE OLD MONTEREY CREAMERY

Across the road from the [old] Monterey Fire House stood the Berkshire Hills Creamery, a corporation formed by the farmers of town who wanted an outlet for their butter. Before this time the farmers had to rely on cheese to use up their milk.

The Creamery was a large building and in one end was built an ice house where cakes of ice were packed and covered with sawdust for the cooling of the butter in warm weather. Also ice was put into the shipping boxes when it was to be expressed to New York. Outside the building next to the road was an unloading platform, where the cream gatherer would unload his barrels of sweet cream into a hopper which would send the cream through a pipe into a large vat for storage and ripening. This vat was double, with a casing on the outside where live steam could be discharged to help sour the cream for churning. When ready for churning it was put into a large box churn about three feet by three feet by eight feet. This box churn was run by belts and pulleys driven by a small steam engine which was fed wood for fuel. The butter worker was round with indents in the circle. Over the top of the large circle was a cone shaped block of wood, with creases in it, which was turning and mixing the salt into the butter and taking the buttermilk out. The buttermilk would run out to a hole in the cement floor, into a pipe which carried it to a buttermilk well, about thirty feet outside of the building. The buttermilk would be sold to farmers for fattening their pigs.

The gathering of the cream from the farmers would be let out at contract to some farmer who could take time to be bothered with the gathering. This would need two separate

runs or gatherings. Mr. Herbert Smith had one route, consisting of the Morse district, old center, Brett Road, Blue Hill, Fenn Road, River Road and Gould Road. This would take six hours or more—it all depended on the roads—mud in the spring and snowdrifts in winter. This had to be done summer and winter. Sometimes it was so cold the cream had to be thawed loose from the barrel. As the gatherer would come to the milk house or barn, the cream had to have a sample bottle taken and the farmer's number recorded on same. Also the cream was weighed; that was the way the farmers were paid—by the pounds of butterfat in the cream. After mixing the salt in and taking out the buttermilk, it was stamped into one pound bricks, marked B. H. C., wrapped, put into boxes and stored in the cooler, waiting for the day of shipment. Generally the U. S. Mail or Stage would take it to Gt. Barrington for shipment, or to the Gt. Barrington stores to be sold. As the farmers grew older and their sons took to the city, small farmers passed on. Today [1972] we have only two farmers left in Town. Most of the farms have been bought by summer residents who love to spend three or four months with us and then live elsewhere in the colder months.

This creamery stood idle for some time and was an eyesore for some people. Mrs. H. W. Eaton bought the creamery and gave the lumber to Wallace Tryon. Tryon tore it down and built the bungalow on the Tyringham road across from Frances Tryon.

— from the ms. *History of Monterey*
by A. Wallace Tryon. A copy of the
whole ms. is in the Monterey Library



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NENNETH A. WARNER

Nenneth A. Warner, 76, of Blue Hill Road, Monterey, died January 21 after a long illness. He was born in Egremont and attended schools there and the former Searles High School in Barrington. He worked for Nelco Metal (later Pfizer) in Danbury, Connecticut, and retired in 1976 after 24 years. He was a member of Monterey Grange No. 291 and of Berkshire Southern Grange.

His wife, the former Ethel Hart, died in September, 1987. He leaves a daughter, Nancy E. Dean of Becket; two sons, Theodore E. Warner of Sandisfield and John A. Warner of Monterey; a brother, Ralph Warner of Rensselaer, N. Y.; five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and five step-children.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 5—Arts Council Film, *Being There*, starring Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine, and Melvyn Douglas; 7:30 p.m. in Church Social Room. See page 3 of the February issue of the *Monterey News* for detailed descriptions of all the films in the series.

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28—Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on New Marlborough Road. Free of charge; sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Saturday, March 12—Meeting with Selectmen and part-time residents to discuss town issues that especially concern the latter. 9:30 a.m. in Grange Hall.

—Special Town Meeting to request voter authorization for money for some late bills and a site evaluation on the ten acres behind the firehouse, one option for a town hall location; see "Town News," page 1. 10:30 a.m. in Grange Hall.

—"Day with Music and Imagery," a time of nourishment and self-discovery with the support of classical music. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information: Ann Eggers, at 528-3748.

—Square and Contra dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$4; children \$1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

—Arts Council Film, *The Black Stallion*, about a young boy's bond with a majestic Arabian stallion. Starring Mickey Rooney and Terri Garr; a family film. At 7:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room.

Thursday, March 17—Isaac Walton League, meeting at the firehouse, 7:30 p.m. Prospective members cordially welcomed. The only qualification is a love of the land and a desire to preserve it.

Saturday, March 19—Arts Council film, *Hara Kiri*, with Nakadai Tatsuya, one of Japan's finest actors. One of the greatest martial arts films in the Samurai genre. For mature audiences. 7:30 p.m. in Church Social Room.

Saturday, March 26—Fourth Annual Maple Sugar Moon Square and Contra Dance party at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:00 p.m. to midnight, everyone welcome. Guest caller John Krumm with Joe Baker and Mountain Laurel; all dances carefully taught, special dances for children. Halftime entertainment including songs and the Mable and Moon Show. Also homemade maple ice cream and cookies included in the price of admission. Adults \$5.00, children \$2.50. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

—Arts Council Film, *Joshua, Then and Now*, comedy for mature audiences, starring James Woods, Alan Arkin, and Michael Sarrazin. 7:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room.

Wednesday, March 30—Community Dinner, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room. Susan Bynack will talk on her recent trip to India and Nepal and her interest in the preservation of the Royal Bengal tiger. Bring a potluck dish and enjoy the company of your neighbors, hot food, and a vicarious trip to a hot country.

Saturday, April 2—Arts Council film, *Black Orpheus*, prize-winning Brazilian film set in Rio de Janeiro in Carnival time. 7:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room.

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— Walter M. Parks
Postmaster

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3 5/8")	\$ 2.50
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Three-inch ad (3" x 3 5/8")	7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3 5/8")	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

Drawings by Sudi Baker, David Balch, Maureen Banner, Chris Burkhart, Shaylan Burkhart, Frank D'Amato, and Brittany Piretti.

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